

## § 611.20

(c) *Maintenance.* Soil survey information is reviewed on a periodic basis to ensure that the information continues to meet evolving needs.

(d) *Distribution.* Soil survey information is disseminated to the public through electronically accessible maps and reports, electronic access to data files, or printed documents. To the extent practicable, as limited by commonly accepted technology, soil survey information is disseminated in electronic form.

(e) *Resource conservation plan data.* Information prepared specifically for use in developing resource conservation plans for soil conservation district co-operators is considered confidential. Soil maps and interpretations prepared for this use will not be made available to others without the consent of the landowner as well as the district governing body. However, soil survey information from which the conservation plan was developed may be disseminated as described in paragraph (a) of this section.

### Subpart C—Cartographic Operations

#### § 611.20 Function.

The NRCS National Cartography and Geospatial Center provides cartographic services needed to carry out NRCS functions. Cartographic services include general cartography, photogrammetry, aerial photography, planimetric and topographic mapping, drafting, and specialized types of reproduction.

#### § 611.21 Availability of aerial photography.

The National Cartography and Geospatial Center obtains necessary clearance for all aerial photography for NRCS. New aerial photography of designated areas in the United States is obtained yearly by NRCS through competitive contracting. This photography is obtained only after it is determined that imagery of these areas available from other sources does not meet NRCS scale and quality requirements. Orders for reproductions of NRCS aerial photography are subject to the fee schedule cited in § 1.2(b) of this title. Order reproductions from the National

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Cartography and Geospatial center: USDA—National Resources Conservation Service; P.O. Box 6567, FWFC-Bldg. 23; 501 W. Felix Street; Fort Worth, Texas 76115.

#### § 611.22 Availability of satellite imagery.

Cloud-free maps of the United States based on imagery received from a satellite are prepared and released to the public by NRCS. The maps offer the first image of the United States not obscured by clouds or distortions. Orders or requests for information should be directed to the National Cartography and Geospatial Center, USDA—Natural Resources Conservation Service; P.O. Box 6567, FWFC-Bldg. 23; 501 W. Felix Street; Fort Worth, Texas 76115. Orders are subject to the fee schedule cited in § 1.2(b) of this title.

### PART 612—SNOW SURVEYS AND WATER SUPPLY FORECASTS

#### Sec.

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AUTHORITY: 26 Stat. 653; Sec. 8, Reorg. Plan No. IV of 1940, 54 Stat. 1234 (5 U.S.C. App. II); 5 FR 2421, 3 CFR 1938–1943 Comp. P. 1288.

SOURCE: 40 FR 12067, Mar. 17, 1975, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 612.1 Purpose and scope.

This part sets forth Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) policy and procedure for the administration of a cooperative snow survey and water supply forecast program. The program provides agricultural water users and other water management groups in the western states area with water supply forecasts to enable them to plan for efficient water management. The program also provides the public and the scientific community with a data base that can be used to accurately determine the extent of the snow resource. The western states

area comprises Alaska, Arizona, California (east side of the Sierra Nevada mountain range only), Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

**§ 612.2 Snow survey and water supply forecast activities.**

To carry out the cooperative snow survey and water supply forecast program, NRCS:

(a) Establishes, maintains, and operates manual and automated snow course and related hydro meteorological networks. Planning for such networks is carried out in accordance with OMB Circular A-62.

(b) Determines and provides information on the expected water supply, including seasonal streamflow data. If pertinent and appropriate to the needs of cooperators and not otherwise available to them, may provide necessary interpretative analyses and forecasts required for operation of water-control structures and/or agricultural operations.

(c) On request and to the extent NRCS resources and any required cooperator contributions are available, establishes hydrometeorological stations to collect and provide data and necessary interpretive analyses to the requesting party. By written agreement NRCS may accept cooperators' funds, materials, equipment, and services for this purpose.

(d) Develops and encourages use of new techniques and improving data collection and processing.

(e) Cooperates with other federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and Canadian provinces and agencies.

**§ 612.3 Data collected and forecasts.**

(a) Basic data are currently collected at numerous sites in the western states area. Data sites generally include a snow course where both snow depth and water equivalent of snow are measured. However, special sites may measure only snow depth or water equivalent. Many of these sites also provide related meteorological data, such as precipitation, temperature, humidity, solar radiation, and wind.

(b) Water supply forecasts in the western states area are generally made

monthly from January through June. Forecasts may be made more frequently for an established need when data are available to NRCS.

**§ 612.4 Eligible individuals or groups.**

(a) Any individual or group who is a significant water user and who would benefit from a water supply forecast may obtain forecasts from NRCS on a regular basis provided data are available to NRCS to develop a forecast at the desired location.

(b) The program collects and interprets data as a service and an aid to agricultural interests, particularly those served by or affiliated with soil, water, and other conservation districts. Information collected by NRCS for these agricultural users is also made available to other Federal, State, and private agencies and to the general public without charge. Cooperator financial contribution is usually required for special measurements or interpretations beyond the scope of the regular program.

**§ 612.5 Dissemination of water supply forecasts and basic data.**

Water supply outlook reports prepared by NRCS and its cooperators containing water supply forecasts and basic data are usually issued monthly by each NRCS state office in the western states area for the months of January through June. Other reports jointly issued by NRCS and its cooperators include a fall water supply summary, annual and accumulative summaries of data, and a western states area report covering water supply outlook.

**§ 612.6 Application for water supply forecast service.**

Requests for obtaining water supply forecasts or related assistance may be directed to any NRCS office in the western states areas. NRCS offices are described in part 600 of this chapter.

**§ 612.7 Forecast user responsibility.**

The forecast user's obligation to the federal government is to give appropriate credit and recognition to NRCS for information furnished. The Federal Government does not assume any responsibility for management decisions the user makes which may be based in

whole or part on information provided by NRCS.

## PART 613—PLANT MATERIALS CENTERS

Sec.

613.1 Purpose.

613.2 Policy and objectives.

613.3 NRCS responsibilities in plant materials.

613.4 Special production of plant materials.

613.5 PMCs.

AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. 590a–590f, 5908; 7 U.S.C. 1010–1011.

SOURCE: 73 FR 51351, Sept. 3, 2008, unless otherwise noted.

### § 613.1 Purpose.

This part provides NRCS policy on the operation of PMCs. The Centers have responsibilities for assembling, testing, releasing, and providing for the commercial production and use of plant materials and plant materials technology for programs of soil, water, and related resource conservation and development.

### § 613.2 Policy and objectives.

(a) It is NRCS policy to assemble, comparatively evaluate, release, and distribute for commercial increase new or improved plant materials and plant materials technology needed for broad programs of resource conservation and development for agriculture, wildlife, urban, recreation, and other land uses and environmental needs. It is the policy of NRCS to conduct plant materials work in cooperation with other agencies of the Department of Agriculture, such as the Agricultural Research Service, and with other Federal and State research agencies, including State agricultural experiment stations. The emphasis of the NRCS plant materials work is to find suitable plants to address conservation needs. In contrast, the emphasis of research agencies and organizations in plant development is to improve economically important crops. The NRCS program of testing and releasing new seed-propagated plant materials follows the guidelines in “Statement of Responsibilities and Policies Relating to the Development, Release, and Multiplication of Publicly Developed Varieties of

Seed-Propagated Crops,” which was adopted in June 1972, by Land Grant Colleges and interested Federal agencies. NRCS releases improved conservation plant materials requiring vegetative multiplication in ways appropriate for particular States and particular species by working with experiment stations, crop improvement associations, and other State and Federal agencies.

(b) The objective of the plant materials activity is to select or develop special and improved plants and techniques for their successful establishment and maintenance to solve conservation problems and needs related to:

- (1) Controlling soil erosion on all lands;
- (2) Conserving water;
- (3) Protecting upstream watersheds;
- (4) Reducing sediment movement into waterways and reservoirs through the stabilization of critical sediment sources, such as surface mined lands, highway slopes, recreation sites, and urban and industrial development areas;
- (5) Stabilizing disposal areas for liquid and solid wastes;
- (6) Improving plant diversity and lengthening the grazing season on dryland pastures and rangelands;
- (7) Managing brush on mountain slopes with fire-retarding plant cover to reduce the possibility of fires that threaten life and property, or result in serious sediment sources;
- (8) Improving the effectiveness of windbreaks and shelterbelts for reducing airborne sediment, controlling snow drifting, and preventing crop damage from wind erosion;
- (9) Protecting streambank, pond, and lake waterlines from erosion by scouring and wave action;
- (10) Improving wildlife food and cover, including threatened and endangered and pollinator species;
- (11) Selecting special purpose plants to meet specific needs for environment protection and enhancement;
- (12) Selecting plants that tolerate air pollution agents and toxic soil chemicals;
- (13) Selecting plants that mitigate odor, Particulate Matter (PM)–10, and PM–2.5;